

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 2, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

In the specification, the abstract has been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

Claims 1 - 20 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1 - 20 are rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are amended to correct matters of form. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, on grounds that the word "predetermined" is indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims to remove the word. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent claims 2-10, 12-17, and 20 on grounds that the independent claims have been amended to remove the word "predetermined." Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-9 and 14-17 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. The dependent claims have been amended to remove dependency on multiple dependent claims. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are not pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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